

Courier Task Force Notes

LPHA Members: Becky Hunt, Elizabeth Gibson, Nicholas Hughey, Robert Niezgoda and Andrew Warlen

The task force met on December 4, 2015 and January 5, 2016.

Information was shared regarding funding and routes. The Task Force discussed various funding options. Becky related that LPHA's feel they cannot give up any funding to support the courier as their funding has been cut in many areas.

It was determined that if no additional funds could be obtained, the courier should be dropped to four days a week to the LPHA's. The LPHA's could still FedEx or mail specimens into the laboratory, take them to another courier site for pick up or hold them until the following pick up day.

Subsequent to the courier task force meetings, the courier bid was awarded to a new contractor (STAT Courier) at a significantly higher price than anticipated. The new courier will begin providing services April 1, 2016. Costs went from approximately \$687,000 to \$840,000 annually, compounding the funding problem we face. Current estimates for the projected shortfalls are FY16 \$46,812 and FY17 \$196,553.

Courier task force members identified the following potential funding options to sustain the courier.

1. Exploring supplemental GR funding through the appropriations process
2. Continuing to look to federal grants to cover courier costs
3. Developing a plan for LPHA four day a week pick up and implement it as funding dictates
4. Pursue a NDI for FY18 to cover courier costs